

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-4 are active in this application, Claim 1 having been amended by the present Amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action the Abstract was objected to as requiring correction; Claims 1-4 were provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of double patenting over Claims 1, 10, 19 and 29 of co-pending Application No. 10/207,024; Claim 1 was rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Fukayama (European Patent Application No. 488,257); and Claims 2-4 were indicated as being allowable if the double patenting rejection noted was overcome.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the provisional indication that Claims 2-4 contain allowable subject matter subject to filing of a terminal disclaimer. Accordingly, a terminal disclaimer is submitted herewith, whereby Claims 2-4 are in placed in condition for allowance.

In light of the outstanding rejection of Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Fukayama, Claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the claimed passing means passes “a larger current component of the third current signal to obtain the second current signal, when the third current signal includes the larger current component which is larger in magnitude than a threshold current, and [blocks] a smaller current component of the third current, when the third current signal includes the smaller current component which is smaller in magnitude than the threshold current.” Thus, according to amended Claim 1, the recited passing means allows a signal current to pass through when the level of the signal

current exceeds the level of the threshold current, and blocks a signal current from passing through when the level of the signal current is below the level of the threshold current.

Support for the changes to Claim 1 is provided at page 10, lines 7-10 of the specification, which states “The switching circuit 104 performs a switching operation so as to pass that portion of the current waveform of the sum signal which is larger in magnitude than a threshold current and block the other.” Accordingly, no new matter has been added.

The structure of amended Claim 1 is advantageous in that the power supply voltage of a circuit can be kept below a withstand voltage of a high-speed transistor, and in that electric consumption can be kept low.

With Fukayama, current generated at transistors TR1 and TR2 flow through transistor TR3. In other words, Fukayama is different from the invention of Claim 1 including passing means that only allows a signal current to pass through when the level of the signal current is higher than the level of the threshold current.

The outstanding Office Action states that the threshold current in Fukayama is the current required to turn ON transistor TR3. However, such a description cannot be found in Fukayama. In view of this distinction, it is respectfully submitted that amended Claim 1 patentably defines over Fukayama and likewise is in condition for allowance.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment, and in light of the terminal disclaimer filed herewith, no further issues are believed to be outstanding, and the present

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application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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